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BODY

SUBJECT: LATIN AMERICA BRIEF  
1993.

FOR 18 OCTOBER

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MILITARY REACTION

ARMED FORCES CHIEF CEDRAS CONTINUES TO ATTACH CONDITIONS TO HIS RETIREMENT, INCLUDING THE PASSAGE OF AN AMNESTY LAW AND THE ARRIVAL OF UN TECHNICAL ADVISERS. YESTERDAY HE CLAIMED WASHINGTON WAS INTERFERING IN AN "INTERNAL PROBLEM OF NO THREAT TO WORLD PEACE." ARMORED VEHICLES WERE MOBILIZED OVER THE WEEKEND TO DETER ANY DEMONSTRATIONS OVER CEDRAS'S FAILURE TO STEP DOWN,

POLICE CHIEF FRANCOIS RECENTLY BRAGGED THAT HE EXPECTS TO PREVAIL IN HIS STANDOFF WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PLANS TO BE IN PLACE LONG AFTER ARISTIDE'S TERM EXPIRES. MALVAL TOLD THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE FRANCOIS WAS BEHIND THE MURDER OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER LAST WEEK AND DESCRIBED THE PROMILITARY THUGS AS NOT BEING CONTROLLED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL.

COMMENT: FEAR OF A FOREIGN INVASION OR RETRIBUTION BY ARISTIDE'S SUPPORTERS REMAINS THE MOST POTENT INFLUENCE ON THE MILITARY. THE RUMOR MILL AND THE HIGH COMMAND'S FAILURE TO KEEP THE TROOPS INFORMED MAKE THE RANK AND FILE ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TO MANIPULATION BY FRANCOIS AND OTHER HARDLINERS. ALTHOUGH WELL-KNOWN RIGHTISTS, SOME LINKED TO THE DUVALIER REGIME, ALMOST CERTAINLY ARE BEHIND SOME OF THE VIOLENCE, THE THUGS NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE POLICE AND THE ARMED FORCES TO OPERATE.

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